(c) what are the comparative figures as on 1st April, 1980 and 1st April, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The foreign debt outstanding of the country is estimated to be Rs. 68831 crores as at the end of March, 1989 at the prevailing exchange rate.

(b) The break up of the total external debt which includes loans on Government Account, Non-Government Account, IMF borrowings and external commercial borrowings is as follows as on 31-3-1989.

	(Rs. crores)
Multilateral	— 20323
Bilateral	— 29526
External Commercial Borrowings	— 17482

(c) Debt outstanding as at the end of March 1980 and March 1985 was estimated to be Rs. 15525 crores and Rs. 35725 crores respectively at the then prevailing exchange rates.

Concessional import of capital goods

*153. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a scheme for concessional import of capital goods for export production; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and what are the reasons which weighed in favour of framing such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The Government have been prescribing from time to time concessional rate of import duty on import/ sional rate of import duty on import of capital goods for industries which have been identified as being predominantly export oriented. However, no scheme as such is in operation.

Central assistance to States for the utilisation of ground water

*154. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have conducted a geographical survey in Andhra Pradesh through the Central Ground Water Board and if so, the names of the districts where potable water has been located in adequate quantity and the depth at which it is available and also the names of those districts where saline water has been located for agricultural purpose;

(b) whether it is a fact that the survey has not been conducted in some of the districts; if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the survey work is likely to be conducted in these districts; and

(c) Whether the Central Government provide financial assistance to the States for the utilisation of ground water and if so, the criteria adopted therefor and the amount provided during the last three years, yearwise and Statewise for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and)b) The Central Ground Water Board has, in a phased programme, covered an area of 2.60 lakh sq. km. under hydrogeological surveys in Andhra Pradesh till March, 1989. The remaining area of 0.15 lakh sq. km. is to be covered during 1989-90. Grond Water exploration upto a depth of about 600 metres has

indicated the availability of adequate quantities of potable water at various depths in all the districts. Saline ground water is generally found in the coastal districts.

(c) Central assistance to the States is given in the form of block loans and grants for the annual plan as a whole and is not tied to any particular sector of development. In addition, under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for ground water development and related activities an amount of about Rs. 1414 crores was released to the States and Union Territories during 1985—89. The year-wise and State-wise details are given in Annexures. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure Nos. 76 to 80]

Air pollution in metropolitan cities

*155. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps in the recent past to check air pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up development and plantation of forests within the vicinity of metropolitan cities to check air pollution;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, in what manner Government propose to tackle the problem of air pollution and water conservation in the metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The steps taken by the Government to check air pollution in the metropolitan cities include the following:—

(i) Emission standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(iii) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(iv) National standards for exhaust from automobiles have been laid down for the vehicles on the road and for vehicles at manufacturing stage and enforcement procedures have been prescribed.

(v) Air pollution control areas have been notified.

(vi) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for sitting and operation of Industries.

(vii) Industries are being persuaded to comply with the consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards for emissions within the stipulated limits.

(viii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary air pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis.

(ix) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(x) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units under the relevant Acts.

(c) and (d) The Master Plans for Metropolitan cities do provide for the creation of green belts. No separate programme has, however, been launched.

(e) Air pollution control measures are listed in penal.

(a) Water conservation measures include—